

“(1) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of funds to carry out this subsection, award a grant or contract to an independent organization to conduct research on the ability of the centers of excellence to use the funds received under this section to improve the school readiness of children receiving Head Start services, and to positively impact school results in the earliest grades. The organization shall also conduct research to measure the success of the centers of excellence at encouraging the center's delegate agencies, additional Head Start agencies, and other providers of early childhood education and development programs in the communities involved to meet measurable improvement goals, particularly in the area of school readiness.

“(2) RESEARCH REPORT.—Not later than 48 months after the date of enactment of the Head Start for School Readiness Act, the organization shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Congress a report containing the results of the research described in paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—Centers of excellence shall annually submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, a report containing a description of the activities the center carried out with funds received under this section, including a description of how such funds improved services for children and families.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to make bonus grants to centers of excellence under subsection (b) to carry out activities described in subsection (d) and research activities described in subsection (e).”.

Section 27. General provisions

472. The House bill and the Senate amendment contain similar provisions. The House bill requires written consent for each specific health care service. The Senate amendment also requires consent for referral to services.

House recedes with an amendment to strike “Rule of Construction” and insert “General Provisions”.

473. The House bill requires consent for any health care services. The Senate amendment does not include similar provisions.

House recedes.

Section 28. Compliance with Improper Payments Information Act of 2002

474. The Senate amendment includes a provision on improper payments. The House bill does not include a similar provision.

House recedes.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this conference report contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

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DALE E. KILDEE,
LYNN WOOLSEY,
DANNY K. DAVIS,
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
LINDA T. SANCHEZ,
JOHN P. SARBANES,
JOE SESTAK,
DAVID LOEBESACK,
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HOWARD “BUCK” MCKEON,
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RIC KELLER,
JOE WILSON,
C. W. BOUSTANY,

DEAN HELLER,
Managers on the Part of the House.

TED KENNEDY,
CHRIS DODD,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
JEFF BINGAMAN,
PATTY MURRAY,
JACK REED,
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
BARACK OBAMA,
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SHERROD BROWN,
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LAMAR ALEXANDER,
RICHARD BURR,
JOHNNY ISAKSON,
LISA MURKOWSKI,
ORRIN HATCH,
PAT ROBERTS,
WAYNE ALLARD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

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APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule II, and the order of House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Irvin B. Nathan as General Counsel of the United States House of Representatives, effective November 12, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would yield to my friend, the majority leader, for an update on next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the distinguished whip for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House will not be in session so that we can observe Veterans Day in honor of those who have sacrificed for our country, served our country so ably and well, and to remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms that we enjoy today.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business and 9 a.m. on Friday. We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A list of those bills, of course, will be announced by the close of business today.

Under rules, we expect to consider H.R. 3915, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and the conference report on H.R. 1429, Improving Head Start Act. In addition, we hope to be able to consider additional conference reports as they become available. And in light of the fact it's our last week before the Thanksgiving break, if there are other items that come to our attention, we will try to move those forward as well. But we don't have notice of those at this point in time.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank you for that information. I certainly agree with your observation about our veterans and the appropriateness of us taking the day on Monday to honor them.

On that issue, we went to conference this week on two different bills, and my impression was, based on the combination of the Military Construction and Veterans bill with Labor-HHS, that that veterans part of that bill was probably done. I'm wondering if the gentleman has any sense of how we can reinstitute a conference on that bill so that we can get the veterans and the military quality of life, military construction money passed. Is there a plan to go to conference there?

Mr. HOYER. I can't represent to the gentleman the specific plan because I have not gotten that from Mr. OBEY, what his thoughts are on that or what his discussions have been with Senator BYRD or with the subcommittee Chairs in both of the bodies. However, we certainly intend to move that forward, as the gentleman suggests, as quickly as possible.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I appreciate that. And I would think since essentially it appears that bill has already been conferenced, since it was included with the Labor-HHS bill in conference, that it should be pretty easy to do and hope that we can do it. The President has announced he would sign that bill. The difference in this year's spending and last year's is about \$18.5 million dollars a day, and I would hope we could get there.

On the trade agreement this week, I thought we had a significant bipartisan vote on the Peru Trade Agreement. There are three other agreements out there that have been negotiated, and I wonder if the leader has any sense of when we might be able to look toward any of those bills coming to the floor.

And I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for that question on the trade bills. We did have a bipartisan vote on the Peru Trade Agreement which incorporated, as we had urged, both worker protections and environmental protections. And with respect to the other three agreements which have been negotiated, Panama, Colombia and South Korea, frankly, we don't yet know. As the gentleman knows, with respect to the agreement with Panama, the complication really doesn't regard the trade agreement as much as it regards the concern that many people have on both sides of the aisle that the Speaker or President of the Panamanian Parliament is under indictment in the United States with an extradition request for the murder of an American soldier. That, obviously, has complicated the consideration of that agreement.

With respect to Colombia, frankly, I want to tell the gentleman, I don't expect Colombia to come up until next year or South Korea to come up before next year. We obviously have, after